

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of September 22, 2005.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 8, 15-18, 22, 29-32 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Smith reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,521) in view of Official Notice.

Claim 1 (as well as Claims 15 and 29), upon which Claims 2-4 depend, has been amended so that transmission disabling means disables the transmission of user information at security levels other than the lowest. That is, the transmission of user information at the lowest security level is not disabled. This is supported by the specification of the present application at page 16, lines 21-23: "Even if a certification level goes down due to timeout or the like, the privilege of the same user is not lost. User data at the lowest level can be accessed." Therefore unlike the log-out, the lowest privilege of the user remains so that the user information at the lowest security level can be transmitted.

In the apparatus of the Smith reference, proprietary data is destroyed, disabled, and/or made unreadable when a change causes the trusted execution environment to cease holding to a certain security level. That is, when a change causes the trusted execution environment to cease holding to a certain security level, proprietary data is completely destroyed and becomes unable to be accessed, to be transmitted, etc. Here, "proprietary data" corresponds to user information of the present application. It is not disclosed or suggested in the Smith reference that data at the lowest level is accessible and transmittable.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-4 are in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 5-7, 9 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 has been amended so that it is dependent on Claims 5 to 7. Claims 11 to 13 are originally dependent on Claim 10 and Claim 14 have been amended so that it is dependent on Claims 5 to 7.

Claim 15 has been amended as Claim 1. Claims 16 to 18 are directly or indirectly dependent on Claim 15.

Claims 19 to 21, 23 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the original Claim 15. Claim 22 has been amended so that it is dependent on Claims 19 to 21. Claims 25 to 27 are directly dependent on Claim 24 and Claim 28 has been amended so that it is dependent on any one of Claims 23 to 27.

Claim 29 has been amended as Claim 1. Claims 30 to 32 are directly or indirectly dependent on Claim 29.

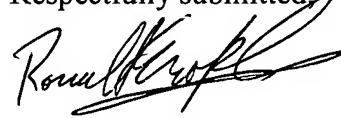
Claims 33 to 35, 37 and 38 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the original Claim 29. Claim 36 has been amended so that it is dependent on any one of Claims 33 to 35. Claims 39 to 41 are directly dependent on Claim 38 and Claim 42 has been amended so that it is dependent on any one of Claims 37 to 41.

The Applicant acknowledges the allowance of Claims 43-57.

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In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald E. Brown', with a stylized, flowing script.

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